



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Australia

### Agricultural Situation

#### Senate Committee Completes Inquiry into NZ Apple Decision

2007

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**Report Highlights:**

The Federal Government's Senate Regional and Rural Affairs Committee has completed an inquiry into the decision made by Biosecurity Australia to allow apple imports from New Zealand. The Committee has stated that it remains to be convinced that the risk of establishment of disease after the importation of contaminated fruit was low to very low and has asked for a draft of the standard operating procedures currently being developed as well as details of the scientific evidence and modeling undertaken as part of the IRA process. The Committee has also stated that imports of apples from NZ should not commence before the Committee has completed its consideration of the matter.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Canberra [AS1]  
[AS]

Ref: AS7025, AS7017, AS7008, AS6078

The Federal Government's Senate Regional & Rural Affairs Committee has now completed an inquiry (see AS7025) into the decision made by Biosecurity Australia to allow apple imports from New Zealand.

The Committee has stated that it remained to be convinced that the risk of establishment of the disease after the importation of contaminated fruit was low to very low. The committee also noted that the standard operating procedures currently being developed by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in consultation with AQIS and Biosecurity Australia were fundamental to the successful management of the risk of importation, establishment and spread of fire blight.

The Committee has requested that, prior to the final approval of the standard operating procedures, the Committee will be provided with the draft operating procedures to enable it to consider how the identified risks are to be addressed in practical terms. The Committee has also asked for details of the scientific evidence and modeling undertaken as part of the IRA process to determine Biosecurity Australia's stated 'low' to 'very low' risk of establishment of fire blight.

The Committee has stated that importation of apples from New Zealand should not commence before the committee has completed its consideration of the matter.

Source: Food & Beverage Importers Association, July 2007

A full copy of the Senate Committee Report is available at:  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat\\_ctte/apples\\_nz/report/report.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/apples_nz/report/report.pdf).

**Background:** On March 27, 2007, Biosecurity Australia (BA) announced it had determined a policy for the importation of apples from New Zealand, as specified in the November 2006 final import risk analysis report for apples from New Zealand. BA further announced a work plan between Australia and New Zealand would be developed which would need to be approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service before any import permits will be considered (see AS7017).

Following the February 26, 2007 Biosecurity Australia (BA) announcement that the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel (which is independent of BA) had disallowed all appeals related to the Final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report for Apples from New Zealand, it was reported that Apple and Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) was objecting to the decision based on the grounds that the detailed appeal submitted by the apple and pear industry had not been considered and they called for an immediate Senate inquiry to address this "ludicrous and flawed" IRA appeal process.

### Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at:  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
AS7037	New Import Risk Analysis Process Becomes Law	06/28/07
AS7036	Agricultural Biotechnology Annual	06/28/07
AS7035	Ag Down Under Vol. 7, 2007	06/22/07
AS7034	Parliament Passes Legislation to Amend Wheat Marketing in	06/22/07

	Australia	
AS7033	"Australian Grown" Logo Launched	06/22/07
AS7032	Biofuels Annual	06/08/07
AS7030	Dairy Semi-Annual	05/17/07
AS7029	Soybeans Approved for Import	05/14/07
AS7028	Ag DownUnder Vol. 6, 2007	05/11/07
AS7026	Cotton Annual	04/26/07
AS7025	Senate To Hold Inquiry Into NZ Apple Decision	04/19/07
AS7024	AWB Shareholders Sue for A\$25m	04/18/07
AS7023	Ag DownUnder Vol. 5, 2007	04/13/07
AS7021	Additional Comments Sought on Nutrition & Health Claims Standard	04/11/07
AS7020	Sugar Annual	04/10/07
AS7018	Ag Down Under Vol. 4	03/27/07
AS7017	Biosecurity Policy Determination - Importation of Apples from New Zealand	03/27/07
AS7016	Grain and Feed Annual	03/27/07
AS7014	Stone Fruit Annual	03/16/07
AS7012	Ag DownUnder Vol. 3, 2007	03/09/07
AS7009	Cotton Quarterly Lockup Report	02/27/07
AS7008	Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand	02/27/07
AS7007	Ag DownUnder Vol. 2, 2007	02/23/07
AS7006	Livestock Semi-Annual	02/20/07
AS7005	Ag DownUnder Vol. 1, 2007	02/02/07
AS7004	Grain Quarterly Update	01/25/07
AS7003	Tree Nuts Annual	01/11/07
AS7002	Promotion Opportunities Report	01/09/07
AS7001	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual	12/20/06
AS6081	Agriculture Minister Grants Two Bulk Export Permits	12/27/06
AS6080	Ag Down Under Vol. 18	12/08/06
AS6079	AWB Veto Power Transferred to Ag Minister for Six Months	12/08/06
AS6078	Final Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand Released	12/01/06
AS6077	Cotton Quarterly Update	11/30/06
AS6076	AWB Proposes Split; Prime Minister to Propose Reform Next Week	11/30/06
AS6075	Cole Inquiry Into AWB Conduct Under Oil-For-Food Program	11/28/06
AS6074	Citrus Annual	11/27/06
AS6073	Ag DownUnder Vol. 17	11/17/06
AS6072	Dairy Annual	11/17/06
AS6071	AWB Rejects Export Applications for 3 MMT, Sparks Controversy	11/09/06
AS6070	Australia Revises Import Conditions for California Table Grapes	11/06/06
AS6069	Ag DownUnder Vol. 16	11/03/06
AS6068	Australia Considers Grain Imports; Additional Drought Aid Announced	10/31/06
AS6067	Government Announces Changes to Import Risk Analysis Process	10/31/06